



## MSU receives clean reaccreditation report from SACSCOC

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) formally announced in December that Murray State University has been unconditionally reaffirmed for accreditation. The university's reaccreditation status with no recommendations is rare since only a small number of the very best institutions of higher education achieve that status. The Quality Enhancement Plan created by Murray State "Bring Learning to Life," was developed to improve experiential learning outcomes through the implementation of learning experiences in which students apply principles learned in the classroom in a real-world setting, along with professional development opportunities related to such relevant pedagogical areas as application, problem-solving, critical/creative thinking and information literacy.

## Graduate student/veteran honored by NSF in Arlington

MSU graduate student and graduate assistant Scot Peterson was one of 11 military veterans with Graduate Research Fellowships honored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) at NSF headquarters during the "Saluting Veterans in STEM" event in Arlington, Va. The selected veterans/students met with project directors from a variety of academic



fields to discuss ways to engage, promote and keep veterans in STEM fields, and shared their ideas with the NSF on how the agency can assist veterans in pursuing careers and goals in scientific research with new programs, grants and fellowships. Program directors also discussed

with the veterans additional opportunities that are available in the NSF Graduate Research Fellowships program. Peterson is shown with his poster depicting his research in the MSU Watershed Studies Institute on the ecological restoration of freshwater systems.

## MSU and UK outscore all other publics for general studies

Murray State University was once again one of only two public universities in Kentucky receiving a "B" for its general studies program. Nationally, only 23 public and private schools scored an "A." The University of Kentucky tied with Murray State on this rating by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). Asbury University and Georgetown College were the only private schools in Kentucky to rate a "B."

## Murray grad on Nat Geo Wild

Murray State University graduate Dr. Jared Tapp appeared in the premiere of *Bandit Patrol*, a new television series on the National Geographic Channel (Nat Geo Wild).



The show features wildlife rehabilitation in West Kentucky. Tapp co-owns and is a veterinarian at Pennyryle Animal Clinic in Madisonville, Ky. He graduated from MSU's Hutson School of Agriculture in December 2006, and earned a master's degree in agriculture with an emphasis in equine reproduction from MSU two years later. His D.V.M. is from Auburn University.



## Kentucky bourbon maker shares marketing expertise with students

Maker's Mark Distillery Chairman Emeritus Bill Samuels Jr. spoke to the "MKT 578: Social Media and Marketing" course taught by Dr. Glynn Mangold, professor of marketing. The visit was especially appropriate since each semester Mangold covers the Maker's Mark Ambassador Program in the course, pointing to it as one of the most effective marketing tools ever created by a brand. That program was created at Maker's Mark by Samuels.



## Murray is host to CMT visit

Murray State played host to CMT (Country Music Television) when its *Top 20 Countdown*, co-hosted by Katie Cook and Cody Alan, dropped in on campus and the city, filming various segments for an episode of the show.

Murray State nabbed the visit by winning the CMT Hot 20 Country College Town Sweepstakes, beating out much larger universities. CMT closed the visit with a concert featuring Big & Rich, Joe Nichols and Chase Bryant.



## Murray State's BMC earns CASE-KY awards

The MSU branding, marketing and communication area was the recipient of two Grand Awards, four Awards of Excellence and three Special Merit recognitions from CASE-Kentucky. Winning projects included the university annual report, a special publication on the opening of the new MSU Paducah Regional Campus, the media relations program on MSU's hemp research, *The Blue & Gold* magazine, best practices for the Take Your Place branding campaign, photography, the news tabloid *The Review*, and feature writing.

## Murray makes honor roll for fifth year



The Corporation for National and Community Service named Murray State University to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the fifth consecutive year. Initiated in 2006, the honor roll recognizes colleges and universities

that "achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in the communities they serve."

## Alexander honored with state award

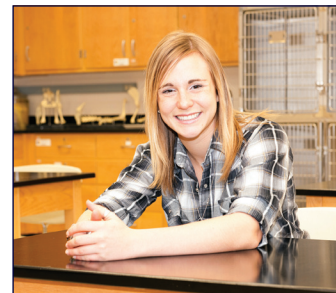


Constance Alexander, an award-winning writer and instructor in the department of English and philosophy, received the media award as a recipient of a Governor's Award, given out by the Kentucky Arts Council. Alexander is a poet, playwright, fiction writer, newspaper columnist and independent producer with extensive publication, production and broadcasting credits.

## Bio-burner heated in time for winter cold

The bio-burner, located at MSU's west farm, is being used this winter to heat the university's equine center to a moderate temperature. Alternative fuel sources abound for the technology, including stalks from the university's first hemp

harvest. Such fuels make use of what might otherwise be considered waste. Anne Jablinski, an MSU Presidential Fellow who is majoring in animal science and minoring in chemistry, has conducted extensive research on green energy fuel sources such as hemp.



## Parisek wins the 2014 Farnam All-Around Amateur Award

December graduate Morgan Parisek was named the 2014 Farnam All-Around Amateur Winner at the American Quarter Horse Association World



Championship Show with her horse, Better Buy The Minit (his call name is Murray). Together, Parisek and Murray earned the world championship title in hunter hack, and reserve world championship titles in hunt seat equitation and equitation over fences. They also placed third in working hunter and eighth in jumping. Parisek received a prize package that included \$15,000, plus \$1,000 in Farnam products, an original Lisa Perry Bronze, an embroidered WeatherBeeta horse blanket and a rose bouquet.

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